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PATENT

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December 10, 2002

Date

Ayesha S. Wilks

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Serial No. : 09/652,842

Filed : August 31, 2000

Attorney Docket No. : 501082.06 (98-0616.05)

Group Art Unit : 2825

Examiner : Belur V. Keshavan

Confirmation No. : 4065

Date of Notice  
of Allowance : September 10, 2002

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A  
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Box Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS**  
**FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

In the Examiner's reasons for allowance, he sets forth a particular element contained in each independent claim and says the claims are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest, among other things, this particular element. Each claim further includes depositing "a second conductive layer" as part of the recited combination of elements, and it is

the ~~re~~ cited combination, which includes the element cited by the Examiner, that is not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,  
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PFR:asw

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